(54) Title: VIDEO BUFFER FOR SEAMLESS SPLICING OF MPEG STREAMS
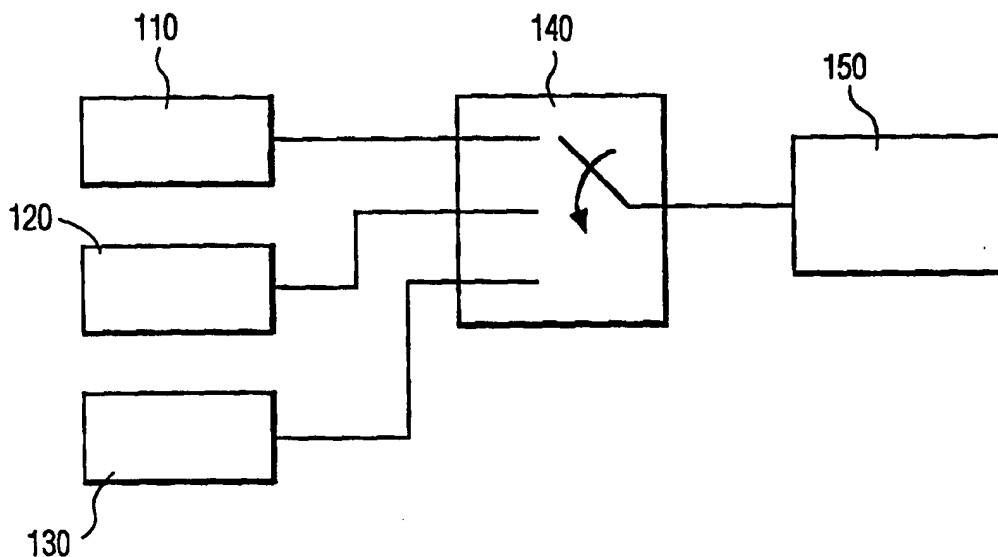
(57) Abstract

At a seamless splice point, a stream of frames from alternate encoders can be switched to a decoder without causing visually disturbing artifacts, and without causing the decoder's buffer to underflow or overflow. Each encoder's buffer is constrained to lie within an upper and lower bound so as to preclude the underflow or overflow of the decoder buffer, regardless of whether the encoder's stream is switched into or out of the stream to the decoder. By classifying splice points as Entry–only splice points or Exit–only splice points, it is shown that the encoder upper and lower bounds may be relaxed. Furthermore, it is shown that by the appropriate choice of transfer rates for Entry–only and Exit–only points, the permissible size of frames before and after the splice point can be regulated.